

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5925
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 11078

E.19. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XD PEXT IR
SUBJ: SOME IRANIAN VIEWS ON SOUTH ASIA.

1. DURING BRIEF STOPOVER IN TEHRAN ON WAY TO INFORMAL CONFERENCE
IN KATHMANDU, NEA DEP ASST SECY DUBS HAD INTERESTING DISCUSSION WITH
INFLUENTIAL DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC STUDIES ABBAS AMIRIE DEC 14. AMIRIE, WHO ORGANIZED RECENT
SRI CONFERENCE ON IRAN IN WASHINGTON FOR THE IRANIAN SIDE, ALSO
ASSISTED BY TWO OTHER SCHOLARS OF THIS SEMI-INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE,
DRS SARRAF AND ENTESAR, WITH POLCOUNS ASSISTING DUBS.

2. THRUST OF AMIRIE'S MAIN COMMENT WAS THAT IRAN AND INDIA
COULD COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY AS CO-GUARDIANS OF INDIAN OCEAN AND
ITS APPROACHES IF SUPERPOWERS REACH AN AGREEMENT TO GET OUT.
AMIRIE SPOKE SLOWINGLY OF CONTACTS HE HAD WITH INDIAN ADMIRALS AND
OTHERS DURING RECENT VIST TO INDIA. HE SAID INDIANS HAVE GREAT
RESPECT FOR IRAN, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF ITS PRESENT IMPORTANCE AND
SHAHANSHAH'S PRESTIGE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ROLE IRANIAN CULTURE AND
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FARSI LANGUAGE PLAYED IN MOGHUL TIMES PRIOR TO BRITISH CONQUEST.
HE FOUND INDIANS ANXIOUS ABOUT IRANIAN PLANS
FOR NAVAL BUILD-UP BUT ALSO APPARENTLY SINCERE IN
READINESS TO DIVIDE ANY FUTURE PEACE-KEEPING RESPONSIBILITIES,
WITH IRAN TAKING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR
PERSIAN GULF AND ARABIAN SEA. AMIRIE INSISTED THAT IN
MANY WAYS INDIANS ARE EASIRE FOR IRAN TO WORK WITH THESE DAYS

THAN ARE PAKISTANIS. HE EVEN FOUND THEM RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS THAT RCD (REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT) MIGHT BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE INDIA.

3. AMIRIE'S VIEW WAS DISPUTED TO SOME EXTENT BY HIS COLLEAGUE SARRAF WHO HAS SPENT MAY RECENT YEARS IN PAKISTAN AND CLAIMS TO KNOW MOST OF THE LEADERS PERSONALLY. HIS VIEW WAS THAT IRAN PREFERS TO HAVE US REMAIN AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AT LEAST UNTIL IRAN HAS BUILT UP PROJECTED NAVAL STRENGTH TO POINT APPROACHING INDIANS. SHOULD US AND USSR WITHDRAW EARLIER, HE THOUGHT GOI MIGHT FEAR FRICTION WITH INDIANS AS IRANIAN NAVAL BUILD-UP TOOK PLACE. HE ALSO SHOWED CONTINUING SUSPICIONS OF POSSIBLE INDIAN INTENTIONS IN PAKISTAN AND NOTED CONCOMITANT PAKISTANI FEARS ABOUT THE INDIANS. IN ARGUING WITH HIM AMIRIE TOOK THE VIEW THAT PAKISTAN HAD VERY LIMITED OPTIONS IN ANY CASE AND HAD TO HOLD ON TO ITS IRANIAN CONNECTION NO MATTER WHAT IRAN DID VIS-AVIS INDIA.

4. DUBS BRIEFED AMIRIE AND SARRAF IN GENERAL TERMS ON CURRENT US POLICY TOWARD AREA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MASSIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIA WAS NOT IN THE CARDS BUT RELATIONS COULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEASURES INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS, SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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SELECTED PROJECT ASSISTANCE, USG CONTRIBUTIONS TO IDA FUNDS FOR INDIA, TRADE, CULTURAL TIES, ETC.
MIKLOS

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